

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 10, 11, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kishimoto et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,281,960, in view of Murouchi, U.S. Patent No. 6,067,144. Claims 3-5, 12, 14, and 16-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kishimoto and Murouchi and further in view of Mashiko et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,288,766. Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kishimoto and Murouchi, and further in view of Ishikawa et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,414,733. Claims 7-9 and 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kishimoto and Ishikawa, and further in view of Ogura et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,739,888.

Independent claims 1 and 15 provides that at least one of the column spacers is formed within a matrix of the pixels, the matrix of the pixels being formed by rows and columns of the pixels. This feature of independent claims 1 and 15 is supported in the specification by, for example, page 13, lines 2-5, page 15, lines 1-4, and page 16, lines 14-16, and in the drawings by, for example, Fig. 5.

The Examiner indicated, in response to the prior feature of amended claims 1 and 15 of at least one of said column spacers being formed between adjacent pixels of said pixels, that Kishimoto and Murouchi both disclosed such a feature.

Specifically, with regard to Kishimoto, the Examiner stated that the column spacers (polymer walls) 12b and 12b' are arranged such that the pixel region is in between the walls 12b' and 12b, citing column 10, lines 14-17, and 33-34, (Office Action, page 4, lines 1-8). However, from this analysis, one can conclude that walls 12b' and 12b are outside the pixel region. In contrast, independent claims 1 and 15, as amended, provide that at least one of the column

spacers is formed within a matrix of the pixels, the matrix being formed by rows and columns of the pixels.

With regard to Murouchi, the Examiner stated that it clearly teaches column spacers 5a and 5b being formed between adjacent pixels, (3a, 3b, and 3c), of the plural pixels, (Office Action, page 4, lines 10-12). However, spacers 5a and 5b are not necessarily in contact with substrate 10, (column 5, lines 2-12; Fig. 3). In contrast, independent claims 1 and 15 state that the column spacers are formed on one of the substrate structures and held in contact with the other of the substrate structures.

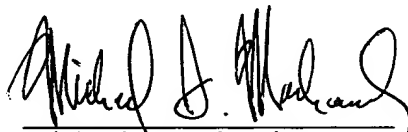
CLOSING

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that independent claims 1 and 15 are in condition for allowance, as well as those claims dependent therefrom. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited.

However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper, not fully covered by an enclosed check, may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael I. Markowitz
Reg. No. 30,659

CUSTOMER NO.: 026304

Phone No.: (212) 940-8687

Fax No.: (212) 940-8986/7

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.:NEKW 17.876

MIM:lh